



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 19, 1998

H.R. 2186

A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on March 11, 1998

SUMMARY

H.R. 2186 would direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to construct, operate, and maintain a National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost BLM about \$2 million in fiscal year 2000 and about \$6 million over the 2000-2003 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Because enacting the bill would increase offsetting receipts beginning in fiscal year 2002, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate the increase would total less than \$500,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2002.

H.R. 2186 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2186 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

| | By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars | | | | | |
|---|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION | | | | | | |
| Estimated Authorization Level | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | a | a |
| Estimated Outlays | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | a | a |
| CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING | | | | | | |
| Estimated Budget Authority | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | a | a |
| Estimated Outlays | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | a | a |
| a. Less than \$500,000. | | | | | | |

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

Under H.R. 2186, BLM would construct, operate, and maintain a National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming. BLM would build the center on land provided by the city of Casper, Wyoming. The agency would construct and operate the center in cooperation with the city and the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center Foundation, and in accordance with certain agreements made between the city, the foundation, and BLM.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

H.R. 2186 would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million to construct, operate, and maintain the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center. The bill also would authorize the Secretary to collect an entrance fee from visitors, to allow private concessionaires to operate at the center, and to use income from visitor fees, concession collections, and donations to develop and operate the center, subject to appropriation.

Based on information from BLM and the foundation, CBO estimates that total discretionary outlays to construct and operate the center would be about \$2 million in fiscal year 2000 and would total about \$6 million over the 1999-2003 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amount for construction and the estimated amounts for annual operations beginning in 2002. We estimate BLM's outlays to construct the center would be about \$2 million in fiscal year 2000 and about \$3 million in fiscal year 2001. Once construction is complete, BLM's outlays to operate the center would total about \$300,000 per year. For

purposes of this estimate, we assume that H.R. 2186 would be enacted by the beginning of fiscal year 1999 and that the Congress would appropriate funds to construct the center in fiscal year 2000.

Direct Spending (including offsetting receipts)

Based on information from BLM and the foundation, CBO estimates that offsetting receipts from visitor fees and concessions would total about \$200,000 per year once construction is complete and the center opens in fiscal year 2002. The spending of such receipts would be subject to appropriation.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

Section 252 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 sets up pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or receipts. H.R. 2186 would decrease direct spending because it would result in offsetting receipts from entrance fees and concessions at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center. Hence, pay-as-you-go procedures apply to the bill, but we estimate that the increase in offsetting receipts would not be significant.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 2186 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The state of Wyoming and local governments within the state have already agreed to provide considerable support for the center, but this support is, and would continue to be, voluntary. These governments have committed over \$3 million towards the project, including land to be donated by the city of Casper.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

This bill would impose no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Victoria V. Heid

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Robert A. Sunshine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis